

Our 112th year of serving the Carbondale area -- home of Nan Battle

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Council extends '83 budget to meet payroll, estimates debt at \$418,000

By MIKE PETROVSKY

Carbondale City Council unanimously approved an emergency resolution to extend the city's 1983 budget at a reorganizational meeting held Monday night, January 9.

The resolution freezes all city expenditures with the exception of salaries for city employees until the 1984 budget is passed. The council letter to the city employees received from Mayor Charlotte Moro on January 5, which stated their salary would be held until after the emergency resolution was passed.

Moro's letter also stated the resolution will extend the 1983 budget for 30 days.

The reason for the emergency resolution is to give the city time to prepare the 1984 budget which would most likely have to include a tax increase for Carbondale residents. Finance director John Kearney revealed at Monday's meeting that, according to his most recent figures, which don't include money the city owes to the firemen's and police pension funds, to unemployment compensation and in state taxes, the city is in debt \$418,233.78. The mayor, who was also in attendance at Monday's meeting, added the debt

will go over the half-million dollar mark once a final tally is made.

However, both the mayor and members of council assured residents at the meeting that the city would not attempt to pay off the huge debt in one year. The mayor also said the city would hire a collection agency to recover an estimated 30 percent of last year's taxes still owed to the city by delinquent taxpayers.

In another action relating to the 1984 budget, the council unanimously voted to award the firm of Parente, Handoff, Carey, Orlando and Associates the contract to audit the city's finances. City collector John Cerro told the council that after

examining all the firms who submitted bids for the audit, he recommends Parente because of the quality of past audits they have done for the city and because their bid of \$19,500 -- which was \$4,000 more than the next highest bidder -- would not increase once the audit was completed, and no other firm offered the same guarantee.

In other business the council: Voted 6-1 to reinstate councilman Michael Tolercio as council president and voted unanimously to appoint councilman Albert Calabrese as vice president. Councilman Frank Grecco Jr. voted against Tolercio's reinstatement.

Was read a resolution introduced by councilman Grecco to amend the city Administrative Code to allow the mayor to appoint an attorney to assist the Zoning Hearing Board. The city would pay the attorney an hourly rate for his services.

In a request made by councilman Calabrese, asked for input from citizens and business on either raising the fine for parking violations due to expired parking meters from \$1 to \$5, or doing away with the meters and allowing one or two hours free parking with violators being fined anywhere from \$5 to \$10 (the latter figure corresponds to fines for parking violations in Scranton). Calabrese said that the city now spends more money repairing the meters than it receives from them.

Heard from S. Robert Powell of the Carbondale Historical Society who announced that his organization will help lessen the city's financial troubles by making some renovations

to both the exterior and the interior of the city hall. The money for the project came in the form of an \$8,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Powell received a round of applause from the council, the mayor and those in attendance after making his announcement.

Heard from Ruth Marmelstein, 54 North Church Street, who asked the city to enforce the ordinance requiring homeowners and businesses in Carbondale to remove the ice from their sidewalks. The ordinance states that homeowners and businesses have 24 hours to clear their sidewalks.

C'dale Twp. police chief loses job

By MIKE PETROVSKY

The people of Carbondale Township are currently without police protection according to former police Chief John Symonides. However, according to township supervisor chairman Joseph Wahy, township residents may call him to find out what is being done about police protection in the township.

The Township Board of Supervision at their reorganizational meeting Tuesday, January 3, replaced Symonides, an experienced full time police chief with three part time policemen, who will have no law enforcement authority until they complete a mandatory police training course. Chairman Wahy told the NEWS he feels that the three part time officers -- Frank Lee, Paul Fife and Frank Lapka -- and a fourth part timer to be hired in the future would better serve the township by representing all four communities: Childs, Mayfield, Terryn and Whales Crossing. Wahy also said that Symonides did not enforce the township's trash dumping laws.

Symonides, who has completed a police training program, has been trained to use the VASCAR speed detection unit and had served on the

Clarks Green police department before he became a police officer for the township in 1980, said the part time police officer system would set the township back. The former police chief said he was on call 24 hours a day and that being a part time officer has full time job. He said that two of the part timers were township hired work full time at other jobs during the day and the other appointee is retired and has a heart condition.

Contrary to what Wahy said Symonides stated he did make some arrests for illegal trash dumping but it was difficult to cover all four areas of the township which are known to be dumping sites and in

many cases witnesses of the illegal trash dumping would not take the time to testify in court. Symonides told the NEWS there has already been a petition started in the township calling for him to be rehired. He said, though, he would not take the job back unless he gets a written contract from the township. Symonides had been working for \$5.00 an hour with no benefits and without a contract he had no sense of job security.

Since he became police chief in 1980, Symonides has raised money for a police car and radio, has brought in \$200 in fines for the township and has cracked down on teenage drinking parties in the township.

Street dept. needs boss

By MIKE PETROVSKY

Street crews in Carbondale are performing their duties this week without any direct supervision. Director of Public Works, Walter Thomas, was laid off in early December of 1983 and has not been recalled since Mayor Charlotte Moro tried to eliminate his position.

Street Department Foreman Paul Mink submitted his resignation to the town council in the near future.

Fred Mancuso before his term as mayor expired Mink accepted a job without any direct supervision.

According to Mayor Moro, Paul Daniels, a street department employee, is taking call duty dispatching men where needed. Mrs. Moro said that she will resolve the leadership problem in the near future.

Dog owners: time to get new license

By MIKE PETROVSKY

Dog owners are licensing fee of \$5.00 for the new 1984 dog licenses are now on the pay-off required sale at the County animal. Senior citizens are entitled to a reduced fee of \$2.75 and \$1.75 for owners of six (6) months of age must guide dogs. Owners of guide dogs or other old dogs are not subject to license fees but their animals must be licensed. According to Gene Diak, regional dog warden supervisor of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in Tunkhannock, all dog

owners will be given sufficient time to obtain a 1984 county treasurer with license before checks are remittance and an endorsement in each county conducted in each county and citations issued by return of the license tag. The Carbondale office of the Lackawanna County Courthouse (Anson) is subject to obtain a blank application form Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Its offices are located at Lincoln Ave., many and John St. and Jerry

magistrates, police departments, pet stores, office has license applications there.

As a band director you see strong years and you see weak years," band director Frank Santoro said. "Now we have lost some of our strength but the students are still working hard and in about a year we'll have another strong group performing."

Santoro, who plays the piano and all band instruments (trumpets, woodwinds and percussion) has seen bands come and go at Lakeland for almost a decade. Santoro resides in Carbondale and is a graduate of Ben Franklin High School. He received his undergraduate degree in music from Mansfield State College and his masters degree in music education from Penn State. He is also the band leader for the Allyn Sands Revue, a show band that plays in the Catskill and Pocono resorts.

The Lakeland Band has between 110 and 120 members each year which includes 70 to 120 grade band members, colorguard, flag line, majorettes, and rifle twirlers.

Award winning Lakeland High School Band attributes its success to desire, practice

By MIKE PETROVSKY

In past years the Lakeland High School Band has won various awards as a result of their participation in both parade and field competitions but 1983-84 is a building year for the marching Chiefs.

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The Lakeland Band has between 110 and 120 members each year which includes 70 to 120 grade band members, colorguard, flag line, majorettes, and rifle twirlers.

In 1980 Lakeland's band placed third among other Northeast Pennsylvania high school bands in the Burger King "Best Band" competition held at Scranton's Memorial Stadium. The Chiefs placed second overall in 1981 at the "Tournament of Bands" which took place in Old Forge. And at the St. Patrick's Day Parade held in downtown Scranton the band took first place honors in 1981 and '82 for best marching band and best appearance.

Lakeland is also an annual participant at the Pioneer Day parade in Carbondale. Just what makes the Lakeland band program so successful? In the activity whereby they can interact and share a common purpose with other students. Participating in local parades provides the band members with a sense of competition and a desire to be the best. As further incentive band members receive high school credits for their participation.

"The students are good workers and they take pride in what they do," Santoro said.

The exact Theatre production will feature a large cast of local adults, high school and grade school students. The role of Harold Hill will be performed by Dave Correll and Peggy Collins will play opposite Dave Correll.

"Seventy-Six Trombones," some of the other more familiar songs are "The Music Man" include "Goodnight, My Son," "Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary," and "Till There Was You."

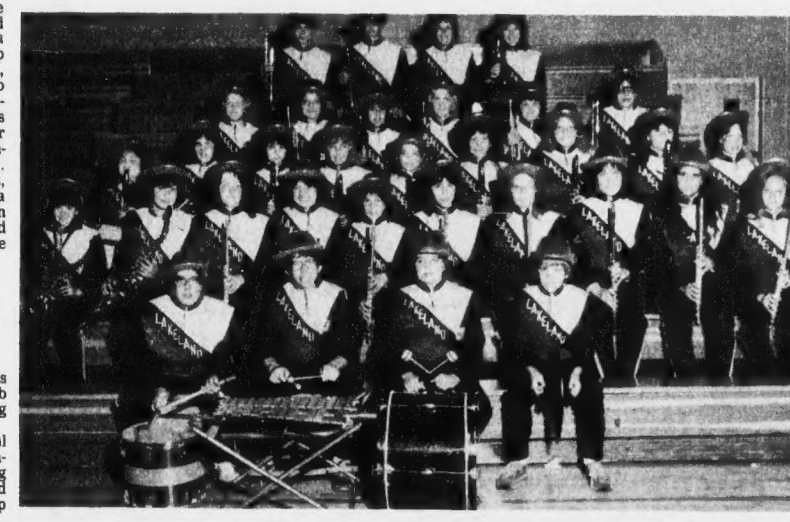
The biggest seems to be scheduling rehearsals. Since there isn't enough time in the school day to have the whole band practice as one group it becomes mandatory to schedule rehearsals after school. This immediately causes a conflict for students who have part time jobs or who are in other activities requiring after school practice. Santoro said that schools offer a greater range of activities for the students than ever before, especially with the increase in popularity of women's sports activities. "This also results in a smaller number of students coming out for band."

Another problem which exists for some high school bands is understaffing. Santoro teaches instrumental music to grades 5 through 12 and is the only band instructor in Lakeland School District. He would like to start teaching students in fourth grade but the time just isn't available. As it is now Santoro must spend part of the day for four days a week at the Mayfield and Lakeland Center elementary schools and the rest of his school time with the junior-senior high school band.

performed by the Country Blend Quartet which consists of Barry Mason, Dr. Robert Davis, Al Conner and Robert Morris.

Others in the large cast are Ralph Perry, Louis Getto, Eric Gerchman, Andrew Good, Tom Dragas, Steve Kania, Mike Stanton, Tom Bissaki, Ron Bellamy, Matt Brockley, Karen Krantz, Danielle Foster, Vincent Correll, Ron Bellamy, Maryanne Correll, Rita Rudyard, Melanie Nichols, Luara Powell, and Jackie Shulte. The dancers include Joette Rossi, Lisa Deffino, Faith Ann Luzzo, Bunny Luzzo, Gary Haffner and Denise Wayman.

"The Music Man" is under the direction of Eleanor Wenger, choreographed by Alysa Beckman, a musical score by Maureen Mansari. Tickets can be purchased from any cast member or at the door prior to the performance.



MEMBERS OF THE LAKELAND HIGH SCHOOL BAND from the 1982-83 school year. The band has won various awards in field and parade competitions since 1980.

Bursting Expressions new, unique business

By MIKE PETROVSKY

Have a spot with your spouse? Want to impress your girlfriend or boyfriend? Wondering what to get that special someone? Why not send a bouquet of balloons?

"Bursting Expressions," a new business venture of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Casaro, Jr., 1015 Terrace St., can fill the bill. They'll send a balloon with a special message printed on it to anyone, anywhere. They'll even hand deliver the balloon or a bouquet of balloons to places of

employment, offices, hospitals and schools located in the Carbondale Area.

Rose Ann Casaro told the NEWS that she and her family have been in the balloon business for the past five months and it really seems to be catching on. Mrs. Casaro said she had seen similar businesses in other parts of the country and thought that the idea would fly, or we should say, "float" in Carbondale. The business serves as a creative outlet from her full time job at St. Joseph's Hospital where she is a maternity floor nurse. "I wanted to do something that was part-time and fun."

At first the business was limited to the local area because the deliveries were made by the Casaros or one of their part time employees. However, with the "Balloon in the Box" they can send an inflated silver balloon with a message just about anywhere through the mail. Parents and friends of college students have been the biggest customers so far for the Balloon in a Box concept. The students then use the balloons to decorate their apartments or dormitory rooms.

Though mailing balloons has met with success, Bursting Expressions still prides itself in hand delivering the balloons -- a more personal approach. Still more unique is the fact that the balloons can be delivered by costumed characters ranging from Miss Piggy, Kermit the Frog and Sylvester the Cat for children's birthday parties, to baby dancers and Playboy Bunnies for balloons sent to bachelor parties.

Some of the more unusual places they've made deliveries to include bars, parking lots, airports and even doughnut shops. Bursting Expressions can also handle decorations for wedding private parties and charitable events.

The Casaros buy their balloons from distributors in Pennsylvania, Georgia and California. Business was slow during the Christmas season, but Mrs. Casaro is looking forward to Valentine's Day and the spring and summer months. Both she and her husband are convinced the balloon business will steadily improve in the times of "high inflation" because a bouquet of balloons is unique cheaper than a bouquet of flowers.

"The balloon business creates a sort of magic," Mrs. Casaro said



ROSE ANN CASARO OF BURSTING EXPRESSIONS, a newly-formed Carbondale business, prepares to send a mylar "Garfield" balloon on its way to a customer. (NEWS Photo by Mike Petrovsky)